

Tuttle-Fordham Mill
(Brick Mill)
Mill Road & the Montauk Highway
Village of Speonk
Town of Southampton
Suffolk County
Long Island
New York

HAER No. NY-102

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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(Brick Mill)

NY-102

Location: At the junction of Mill Road and the Montauk Highway, Village of Speonk, Town of Southampton, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York.

Date of Construction: 1859

Present Owner: John Saloman, Inc.
P.O. Speonk
New York

Present Use: Lumber and millworking

Significance: Daniel Tuttle (1796-1878) built the Brick Mill in 1859 to house the carriage manufacturing business he had established in 1844. The business was operated by his sons, Elias P. Tuttle (1836-1914) and Lewis Tuttle (1845-1907), from 1870 to 1891, and alone by Elias until 1895. The Tuttle Mill had machinery for sawing, turning, boring, drilling and otherwise shaping and working wood and metal, all driven by water power.

Mr. Everett O. Fordham purchased the mill circa 1900 and operated it for lumber and millworking until his death in 1945. Wilbur Benjamin, an employee of the Fordham Mill, purchased the mill from the Fordham heirs in 1947. John Saloman, the present owner, bought the mill from Benjamin circa 1960, and it still operates in the lumber and millworking business.

The original building measures 25 feet by 62 feet, with a later addition on the west end (basically mirroring the stylistic features of the original structure). The north and south walls of the original structure each have 7 brick pilasters, 28 inches wide, with spaces of 10 feet in between. There are two pilasters on the east side. The walls are crowned with a denticulated brick cornice (duplicated on the newer wing). The original building has a flat roof, while the roof of the addition is pitched. The north and east facades have segmentally arched doorways. A small granite block marked "1859" is inset above the north door. The old sluice opening is also visible on the north elevation.

(continued)

The building is supported on a brick foundation with arched openings. Metal and wooden gears, and other machinery remain under the structure. Much of the framing and support structure both underneath and inside the building appears to be original.

The mill was powered by water until approximately 1911, when electricity was introduced into the Speonk area, and the mill was converted. Most water powered mills on Long Island were simple frame structures. The masonry construction and more sophisticated design of the Tuttle-Fordham Mill set it apart from other contemporary structures.

References:

Bayles, Richard M.; Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Suffolk County, (Port Jefferson: 1874).

Chapman Publishing Co.; Portrait and Biographical Record of Suffolk County, Long Island, New York, (New York: 1896).

Transmitted By:

Kevin Murphy, Historian HAER, May 1984; from material provided by John A. Gable, February 1974.